

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 216969

64

ORIGIN AF-18

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW, UG

SUBJECT: FRG PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS IN UGANDA

REF: BONN 15847

1. RE PARA 1(A) REFTTEL, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO LEAVE ANY OFFICIAL AMERICANS BEHIND IN KAMPALA. ASIDE FROM SECURITY RISKS, WHICH IS PRIMARY REASON FOR CLOSING EMBASSY, INTERESTS SECTION IS A CONCEPT GEN. AMIN IS NOT LIKELY TO GRASP ONCE WE TELL HIM WE ARE CLOSING OUR EMBASSY. MOREOVER, IN OUR VIEW, RETENTION OF AMERICANS QUITE LIKELY WOULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR FRG.

2. REGRET ALSO IT NOT REPT NOT POSSIBLE TURN OUR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OVER TO FRG EMBASSY. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD
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PAGE 02 STATE 216969

EXPECT NEARLY ALL OF OUR FUTURE DEALINGS ON UGANDA TO BE ON

AN UNCLASSIFIED BASIS, MOSTLY ON CONSULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. BELIEVE TOO, THAT US ADMIN OFFICER WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN TEMPORARILY IN NAIROBI FOLLOWING CLOSURE OF OUR EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE HELPFUL GUIDANCE ON THE OUTSTANDING ADMIN PROBLEMS BY TELCONS, TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS TO FRG EMBASSY.

3. RE PARA 1(B) REFTTEL, FOR REASON NOTED IN YOUR COMMENT, WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR TO GOU BEFORE CLOSURE OF OUR EMBASSY THAT WE INTEND TO ENTRUST PROTECTION OF OUR INTERESTS IN UGANDA TO FRG EMBASSY. WE ALSO WOULD STRESS TO GOU THAT

BECAUSE WE ARE NOT BREAKING RELATIONS AND GOU NOT BEING ASKED TO TAKE RECIPROCAL ACTION ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, USG WOULD STILL CONTINUE DEAL WITH GOU IN WASHINGTON (PROVIDED AMIN KEEPS EMBASSY OPEN), AS WELL AS IN KAMPALA THROUGH FRG.

4. RE PARA 1(C), IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE AMIN MAY MOVE TO EXPEL ALL AMERICANS FROM UGANDA, ESPECIALLY AFTER WE ANNOUNCE CLOSURE OF OUR EMBASSY AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. AS EMBASSY BONN NOTED, WE INTEND GIVE SEVERAL DAYS' ADVANCE NOTICE TO ALL PRIVATE AMCITS IN UGANDA OF CLOSURE OF EMBASSY AND RECOMMEND TO THEM ONCE AGAIN THAT THEY LEAVE UGANDA. SOME WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DO SO, ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW YET HOW MANY. IF EXPULSION LATER ANNOUNCE BY GOU, WE BELIEVE, BASED ON AMIN'S PREVIOUS EXPULSION OF ISRAELIS, NON-CITIZEN ASIANS, AND OUR MARINE SECURITY GUARDS, THAT PRIVATE AMERICANS IN UGANDA WOULD BE GIVEN REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME TO DEPART SAFELY.

5. RE PARA 1(D), WE GREATLY APPRECIATE FRG FONOFF MOVING RAPIDLY TO FILL TWO CURRENT VACANT POSITIONS IN ITS KAMPALA EMBASSY. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, VERY FEW AMCITS ARE VISITING UGANDA THESE DAYS AS TOURISTS AND THAT FEWER STILL WILL BE DOING SO ONCE CLOSURE OF OUR EMBASSY IS ANNOUNCED. FOR PAST YEAR WE HAVE BEEN DISCREETLY DISCOURAGING AMERICAN TOURISTS FROM VISITING UGANDA AND UPON CLOSURE OF OUR EMBASSY WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO MORE EMPHATICALLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 216969

6. TEXT OF PROPOSED US EMBASSY NOTE TO GOU FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

7. FINALLY, REQUEST EMBASSY BONN EXPRESS OUR VERY DEEP GRATITUDE TO FRG FONOFF FOR ITS COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO REPRESENT OUR INTERESTS IN UGANDA. WHILE WE FULLY APPRECIATE FRG SUGGESTIONS AND CON-

TINGENCIES RAISED REFTTEL, WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO KEEP
WORK PERFORMED ON OUR BEHALF AT MINIMUM AND SINCERELY HOPE
FRG WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO HANDLE WORKLOAD WITH ITS OWN
STAFF AND EQUIPMENT. AS EMBASSY KAMPALA RAPIDLY WINDING
DOWN NOW, WITH TARGET DATE OF NOVEMBER 10 ESTABLISHED,
WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING FINAL BONN APPROVAL IN ORDER THAT
PROTOCOL DE REMISE AND OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS CAN BE
PREPARED. KISSINGER

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